Children, in their purest form, are incredible. They do not see complex parameters or hindrances. They see simplicity and many times even solutions, through undisturbed creativity, intuitiveness, and imagination. However within that blissful array of characteristics is the predicament that they do not have the knowledge necessary to apply that ingenuity in a practical manner, which is why we must unfortunately subject our students to a few years of crucial schooling. This way they will gain the knowledge necessary to finally be able to apply the ingenious we find so intriguing. While this always seemed the objective of education, it is simply no longer the case.

We are no longer evoking the unique talent of each student. No instead, in our crusade to make every student well rounded, our educational system is ironically doing just the opposite. Put frankly, “everyone can be super, but when everyone is super, no one will be.” And while that may very well be a quote from “The Incredibles”, it is sadly the exact consequence we are sentencing to my own generation. By pressuring students to be well rounded in nearly the exact same way, society has turned away those who are exploring their passion and pursuing a single direction. Alternatively our educational system is simply trying to hurdle students through the loops towards monetary success. So instead of forcing every student into mediocrity of all areas before they even finish secondary education I believe we need to play towards the interests of students.

By taking a cue from the technologically convenient world we live in, we can aim to personalize the learning experience. Students all have interests unique to themselves that they would like to explore. Liberate this notion. Our future requires a beginning of real change, true progression to break free from the cold walls we seem to confine our students in. Educational reform is finally becoming a movement, and the idea is sitting, churning inside the minds of millions of Americans, and it is something as a nation we need to progress. But this progress needs more than words, it demands action from our parents, our teachers, our principals, and especially our politicians. Your collective influence means that you can provide for this generation, and generations to come the tools needed to start innovating and stop waiting. This means developing programs that give students opportunities into the real world, not another risk-free simulation. It means distributing and keeping available resources to create an environment that can take a dedicated student to a level that supports their own vision.

However most importantly, to create this environment, above all, above opportunities, above resources, my generation of students needs encouragement to not only pursue our fascinations but to understand what inspires us. Don’t let us settle to be engineers, and lawyers, and doctors, push us to find the bleeding edge, to become the next revolutionary, to create an entirely new field today. Because we can do it, together let us not reform education, let us destroy it’s glorified focuses, and let us rebirth it’s very core in this country; Thank you.